

Roger and the Second Crusade

231

fall back on Nicsea with the loss of
30,000 men.
At this place Conrad and Louis met;
the disaster
eclipsed all feuds, and the two kings
resolved to
march in company along the coast to
Smyrna,
But at Ephesus Conrad fell ill, and
returning to
Constantinople, spent the winter in
closest amity
with the Emperor, sailing for the Holy
Land in the
spring,
Louis pushing on crossed the
Meander, and at
Mount Cadmus first trod Turkish
soil, The
advance of the army brought the
French to a
high mountain which opposed their
march; Louis
ordered them to rest on their arms
till morning
so that the crossing might be made by
daylight,
But the front division continued to
advance while
the hinder divisions stood irresolute;
suddenly the
Turkish cavalry rushed into the gap,
and breaking
the ranks of the rear-guard made
terrible havoc
among the infantry, Around Louis fell
forty of
his most distinguished nobles
defending him at all
cost, and only at nightfall did the Turks
withdraw*
The Templars were confided with the
leadership
of the shattered army, and led by these
professional
fighters the disheartened Crusaders
marched sadly
into the Greek city of Attalia (2d of

February,
1148), Thence Greek ships carried
Louis and his
Queen to Antioch *i* his army was
despatched by the
land route and, constantly assailed by
the Moslems,
was but a remnant when it reached
that city*
The crusading hosts had been all but
extermin-
ated before they reached the Holy Land;
the blam©